GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2170
ANSWERED ON:14.08.2006
COMPUTERISATION OF AGRICULTURE MANDIES
Yadav Shri Baleshwar

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to develop, strengthen and computerize the agriculture mandies in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Government has held talk with the States in this regard;

(c) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to implement this work

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA)

(a): Yes, Sir. Ministry of Agriculture is implementing a Central Sector scheme for `Development/ Strengthening of Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure, Grading and Standardization` in the country with effect from 20.10.2004. The aim of the Scheme is to encourage rapid development of marketing infrastructure in agriculture and allied sectors, to cater to the post harvest requirements of production and marketable surplus of various farm products. Under this Scheme, credit linked back ended subsidy is provided on the capital cost for strengthening and modernization of existing agricultural markets which include computerization of the mandis. The rate of subsidy is 25% of the capital cost of the project, with a maximum ceiling of Rs.50 lakh for each project. In case of North Eastern States, hilly and tribal areas and to entrepreneurs belonging to Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribes and their cooperatives, the rate of subsidy is 33.33% of the capital cost of the project with maximum ceiling of Rs.60 lakh for each project. The project of State Agencies are eligible for 25% of the capital cost of the project and without credit linkage. The scheme is reform linked, to be implemented in those States that amend the Agricultural Produce Marketing (Regulation) Act (APMC Act), wherever required, to allow direct marketing, contract farming and to permit setting up of markets in private and cooperative sectors.

(b): Yes, Sir.

(c): The Ministry of Agriculture has formulated a model law on agricultural marketing for guidance and adoption by the State for undertaking reforms in their laws dealing with Agricultural Marketing, wherever required, to provide for direct marketing, setting up of markets in private/cooperative sector and contract farming. Accordingly, the States of Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Manipur, Nagaland, Sikkim, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Chhatisgarh, Rajasthan, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Orissa and Union Territories of Andaman & Nicobar Island, Daman & Diu, Lakshdweep and Dadra & Nagar Haveli have undertaken the requisite reforms and these have been notified for implementing the scheme.

(d): For effective implementation of the above scheme, this Ministry has taken the following steps:

(i) An awareness programme is being conducted by Ch. Charan Singh National Institute of Agricultural Marketing (NAIM), Jaipur in all the States / Union Territories, which have been notified for implementing the scheme.

(ii) An Memorandum of Understanding has been signed between NAIM, Jaipur and National Bank for Agriculture & Rural Development Consultancy Services (NABCONS), a subsidiary of National Bank for Agriculture & Rural Development (NABARD) for preparing the project reports of States for assistance under the scheme.